

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS06912

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Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
IO-13 SCA-01 VO-03 FBIE-00 INSE-00 /076 W

R 202046Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6912

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: FOUR ARGENTINE SEMINARIANS RELEASED, PREPARE TO GO TO U. S.

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6020

1. THE FOUR ARGENTINE SEMINARIANS ABDUCTED WITH FATHER JAMES WEEKS IN AUGUST WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON IN CORDOBA LAST WEEK (AROUND OCTOBER 11). TWO OF THEM SPOKE TO CONSOFF YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 19) IN BUENOS AIRES ABOUT APPLYING FOR STUDENT VISAS TO GO TO THE U. S. TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES. THE OTHER TWO ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THEM IN BUENOS AIRES SHORTLY. APPARENTLY NO CHARGES WERE EVER FORMALLY BROUGHT AGAINST THEM AND THEY ARE HAVING NO PROBLEM SECURING ARGENTINE PASSPORTS. THE FIFTH SEMINARIAN, A CHILEAN, APPARENTLY REMAINS IN JAIL. HE IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE LIABLE FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES AND THE CHURCH HAS MADE NO REPRESENTATIONS ON HIS BEHALF (SEE REFTEL). EARLIER PRESS REPORTS SAID THE CHILEAN WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH THAT APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET HAPPENED.

2. EMBASSY WILL INTERVIEW SEMINARIANS AS THEY PROCESS THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS AND WILL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT ANY INTERESTING VIEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS.
HILL

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